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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial No. Pending	§	Int'l Filing Date: 17 July 2002
Title: FLEXIBLE VERTEBRAL LINKING DEVICE	§	Examiner: pending
Applicant: Fortin et al .	§	GA No.: pending
Atty docket no: PUS-H002-001	§	

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**FIRST PRE-AMENDMENT**

***Via Express Mail to:***

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
2011 South Clark Place  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby Room 1B03  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Together with the enclosed filing papers, Applicant requests that the following amendments be made to the claims *before calculating the fees due for such application.*

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims 6-12 as follows:

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**